

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02961 100209Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SSO-00 DHA-02 SY-05 H-02 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /055 W

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O 092335Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 586

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 2961

FOR SCS AND ARA/CEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, HO (CYPHER, MICHAEL J.)

SUBJECT: W/W MICHAEL JEROME CYPHER

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2921 AND 2960

1. CONSMAF RECEIVED PHONE CALL THIS AFTERNOON FROM FATHER RALPH VALA OF FATHER CYPHER'S FRANCISCAN ORDER IN WISCONSIN (A.C. 41JB367-8382) ASKING FOR CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS CARRIED BY MCNS (CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE) THAT FATHER CYPHER AND COLUMBIAN PRIEST IVAN BETANCOURT HAD BEEN KILLED JUNE 27 REPORT APPARENTLY HAD FATHER CYPHER BEING DRAGGED FROM HOSPITAL BED AND SHOT.

2. CONSOFF EXPLAINED FATHER CYPHER'S WHEREABOUTS STILL UNKNOWN DESPITE CONFLICTING RUMORS AND GROWING FEARS HE IS DEAD. NO AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT YET MADE BY GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH REPORT OF JOINT COMMISSION EXPECTED TOMORROW. FATHER VALA WAS ASSURED EMBASSY CONTINUING IN CONTACT WITH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL SOURCES TO DETERMINE CYPHER'S WHEREABOUTS.

3. SECRETARY TO ARCHBISHOP IN CONVERSATION REPORTED SEPTTEL
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MENTIONED HIS OFFICE HAD BEEN CONTACTED FOR INFORMATION BY

U.S. CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE, FATHER CYPHER'S ORDER, AND BY
HIS FAMILY BUT THAT THEY UNABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION DES-
PITE THEIR BELIEF HE IS DEAD. EMBASSY SO FAR HAS NOT
RECEIVED OTHER INQUIRIES FROM U.S.
SANCHEZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: CASC, HO, (CYPHER, MICHAEL J)
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